

WEATHER OF NORTH AMERICA AND ADJACENT OCEANS

NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

By F. A. YOUNG

The following table shows the average sea-level pressure for the month at a number of land stations on the coast and islands of the North Atlantic. The readings are for 8 a. m., 75th meridian time, and the departures are only approximate, as the normals were taken from the Pilot Chart and are based on Greenwich mean noon observations, which correspond to those taken at 7 a. m., 75th meridian time.

Stations	Average pressure	Departure
	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>
St. Johns, Newfoundland.....	30.03	+0.20
Nantucket.....	30.05	-0.01
Hatteras.....	30.08	-0.05
Key West.....	30.07	-0.02
New Orleans.....	30.09	-0.01
Swan Island.....	29.94	-0.05
Turks Island.....	30.08	0.00
Bermuda.....	30.16	+0.02
Horta, Azores.....	30.42	+0.23
Lerwick, Shetland Islands.....	29.39	-0.35
Valencia, Ireland.....	29.63	-0.27
London.....	29.68	-0.32

It will be noticed that the average monthly pressure at Horta was considerably above the normal, while at Lerwick it was below. This denotes that both the North Atlantic HIGH and Icelandic LOW were unusually well developed, and the steep gradient between these two centers of action was responsible for the frequency of heavy westerly winds in the intermediate territory. At Horta the barometric readings ranged from 30.24 inches on the 28th to 30.66 inches on the 6th, and at Lerwick from 28.80 inches on the 8th and 10th to 29.90 inches on the 19th. At the latter station there was a period of low pressure from the 8th to the 12th, the highest reading being 28.98 inches on the 11th.

Over the eastern section of the steamer lanes the number of days with winds of gale force was above the

normal, due to the conditions stated above. In the region between the 40th meridian and the American coast, however, comparatively moderate weather prevailed during the greater part of the month, although these waters were visited by a few cyclonic disturbances, for the most part of limited extent.

Fog was unusually prevalent over the Grand Banks and in the vicinity of Nantucket Shoals, it being observed on from 15 to 16 days in both localities. Fog was reported on 3 days in the Gulf of Mexico, while the steamer lanes east of the 40th meridian were comparatively clear.

On the 1st there was a LOW central near 53° N., 40° W., that moved slowly northeastward, and on the 5th was in the vicinity of Iceland, although it was impossible to plot its position accurately due to lack of observations.

On the 3d and 4th there was a slight depression between the Bermudas and New York. By the 5th it had deepened considerably, the center on that date being near 40° N., 60° W.

From the 7th to 17th there was a persistent area of low pressure over some part of the region east of the 40th meridian, the storm area varying in extent and intensity from day to day. Charts VIII to XIII show the conditions from February 10 to 15, inclusive. From the 10th to 13th there was also a cyclonic disturbance of limited extent along the American coast as shown on charts VIII to XI.

From the 18th to 21st no well-developed LOW was reported, although vessels in widely scattered localities encountered gales during this period.

From the 22d to 27th the eastern section of the steamer lanes was swept by severe westerly to northwesterly gales, accompanied by rain, hail, and snow, the storm area on the 24th extending as far south as the 40th parallel.

From the 26th to 28th there was also a well developed LOW of limited extent over the region between Hatteras and Newfoundland.